

HEY SENIORS!

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21 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION CEREMONIES BEGIN

Cap & Gown Pickup

May 5th & 6th
9:00am - 6:00 pm
Sacred Heart University Bookstore



Remember to keep following the Pioneer Promise, both on and off campus!

Reopening of Sacred Heart University’s Discovery Science Center and Planetarium

BY EMILEE CAMODEO
Staff Writer

Starting this June, Sacred Heart University’s Discovery Science Center and Planetarium will be in full gear for a safe reopening. Being approximately one mile away from the university’s main campus, there will be new and updated exhibits, along with a more immersive planetarium.

According to a statement issued from the university, “Renovations have been ongoing since the university assumed operation of the Bridgeport museum in January. The museum, situated at 4450 Park Ave., has a 62-year history of providing educational experiences in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) to young learners through programs that inspire wonder and ignite creativity.”

Although the Discovery Science Center has been shut down due to COVID-19 guidelines, there have been virtual events that anyone, from all over the world, can attend.

“The Discovery Science Center currently offers virtual learning experiences for schools, scouts, community centers, and more,” said David Mestre, project coordinator of the Discovery Science Center. “Experiences range from chemistry demonstrations, lessons on the solar system, virtual planetarium shows and much more.”

Soon, the center will reopen in phases as the pandemic and the renovation schedule allow.

“Plans call for the center to open for summer programs, and the public can make reservations to visit the Henry B. duPont III Planetarium as well. School groups can resume visits in September, when limited public admission also will begin,” said the statement from the university. “Then, on a date to be determined, the center will reopen fully, with special admission rates for members and no-cost admission days for Bridgeport residents.”

For years, the former Discovery Center and Planetarium promoted STEAM programs and access to education for all.

Sophomore Jenna Hughes is an education major who hopes to eventually take advantage of this center.

“I think this center is an amazing opportunity for students to get a hands-on learning experience,” said Hughes. “This is not only an educational experience for the students, but also an entertaining one, hopefully leading to them paying more attention and learning more.”

The Discovery Center is not only reopening, but it will also have new advances that will benefit students more.

According to a statement issued from the university, “Thanks to software and technology updates, visitors will find an even more immersive planetarium. New software called Digistar 7 provides the planetarium with cutting-edge technology used by NASA. From their

seats, visitors will see stars, the rings on Saturn and other wonders of the universe.”

Michael Alfano, dean of Sacred Heart’s Isabelle Farrington College of Education, has partnered with Mestre to involve students, faculty and staff in the science center and planetarium.

“I want SHU students, faculty and staff to actively contribute to the re-imagining of this amazing resource,” said Alfano. “Not too many universities around the country have a direct connection to a museum or science center, but we do. That’s amazing, and the opportunities for the SHU and greater Bridgeport communities are nearly endless.”

Education students at Sacred Heart recently received training to teach some of the center’s classes.

“That includes a program called ‘Slimeology,’ in which local school children can explore different states of matter and make slime. School districts throughout the state can sign up for Discovery programs by going to the website,” said the statement from the university.

Alfano and Mestre are excited about the learning experiences that are soon to come at the center.

“We invite SHU students to leave their mark and make an impact on the SHU Discovery Science Center and Planetarium as we inspire wonder and ignite creativity well into the next century,” said Mestre.



THIS SUMMER, SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY’S DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER AND PLANETARIUM WILL BE FULLY REOPENED AFTER THE RECENT RENOVATIONS ARE FINALIZED.

WSHU

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FedEx Shooter and Gun Control

BY FRANCESCA COMPAGNO
Staff Writer

On April 15, Brandon Scott Hole, a 19-year-old former FedEx employee, engaged in a shooting in Indianapolis, Ind. Nine people were killed, including Hole, who died by suicide. The rifles used were purchased legally.

According to the Associated Press, “A trace of the two guns found by investigators at the scene revealed that suspect Hole legally bought the rifles last July and September,” officials with the Indianapolis police said Saturday.”

Hole legally purchased the two rifles despite red flag laws. “The law is intended to prevent people from purchasing or possessing a firearm if they are found by a judge to present ‘an imminent risk’ to themselves or others,” said the Associated Press.

“Police on Monday identified the high-capacity weapons used by Hole,” said the Associated Press. “One was a Ruger AR-556 Hole purchased in September and the second was an HM Defense HM15F bought in July.”

Sophomore Alyssa Franchi, a cybersecurity major, said that gun control laws should be enforced more, and then fewer situations like this would happen.

“When I heard about this article, I was scared for my personal safety,” said Franchi. “People should be getting background checked even more if they have a mental disorder or suicidal thoughts. I think the ‘red flag law’ is a good way to start changing how people with mental health issues should not be carrying a gun.”

Edward Shea, Deputy Chief of Public Safety at Sacred Heart University, said that people purchasing guns must be background checked before purchasing because of these types of incidents.

“I think each of the recent shooting incidents makes it clear there is a need for re-examining all facets of guns and violence in our society,” said Shea. “President Biden’s proposal addresses several important components such as ‘ghost’ guns and high-capacity weapons.”

Shea also said there must be more gun protection laws put into place.

“There is no one law change that will immediately solve the problem. It will take continued focus and commitment,” said Shea.

Recently, there has been a variety of thoughts surrounding the Second Amendment due to the number of mass shootings in the United States.

“In my opinion, focusing attention on the Second Amendment sometimes distracts us from zeroing in on the root causes of these violent acts,” said Shea. “I think we need to examine the motivations behind these acts, what drives a person to carry out such senseless violence and destruction.”

The state of Connecticut has some of the most restrictive gun control legislation in the country.

“Controlling guns is certainly a very important element that we should continue devoting our energies toward, but also realizing gun violence is a multi-layered problem

and each layer needs its own unique solutions,” said Shea.

Sophomore Thea Chronopoulos, a business major, said that safety should always be the top priority.

“It is important for the safety of our community to not allow any incompetent person to carry a rifle of any kind,” said Chronopoulos.

Chronopoulos said specific laws need to be implemented, especially when it involves the lives of others.

“With innocent lives at stake, Indiana’s red flag laws should have been more enforced,” said Chronopoulos. “This would have prevented the former FedEx employee from buying the two rifles used in the attack and possibly hurting more people. This would have not only prevented incidents such as this one, but events in the future as well.”



NBC NEWS
AFTER A FEDEX EMPLOYEE SHOT AND KILLED NINE PEOPLE, THE DISCUSSION OF GUN CONTROL CENTERED AROUND MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PUCHASE A GUN.

SPECTRUM NEWSPAPER
SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
(2021)



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Perspectives

Lifting COVID-19 Restrictions

BY DEANNA DRAKOPOULOS
Staff Writer

Senior Lindsey Rodgers is very happy that she is allowed to have her friend, who lives in a different dorm, over to study, after a year of resident hall restrictions that prevented students from visiting dorms they do not reside in.

“I was so excited when I found out that we could have guests from other buildings in our room,” said Rodgers. “I study with friends regularly, and we depend on each other’s help, so it made life really easy that we would be allowed to study together instead of over Zoom.”

The Coronavirus Planning Team sent an email on April 13 stating, “As a nod to students who have been extremely cooperative in following housing restrictions this semester, we are loosening our visitation and off-campus gathering policies.”

Many students say they felt relief after receiving this email, that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

“I was so happy to see some restrictions being lifted,” said junior Brendan Whitehead. “It gives me hope that things are moving in the right direction and things will be back to normal.”

The lifted restrictions went into effect on April 14, which include an increase in the maximum capacity for guests in all residence halls to one guest per occupant in first-year residential facilities and, in upperclassmen residence halls, 50% capacity of the designated occupancy, or up to 15 people in the room, whichever is lower.

Some feel that being able to visit other dorms will create a happier student body.

“I think students are adhering to the new regulations the university has set forth because no one wants to lose these privileges. COVID-19 has taken a large toll on the mental health of students because of strict restrictions, and I can already see how much happier everyone is that they can see their friends they have made throughout their time at SHU,” said Natali Maher, Residence Hall Director for Scholars Commons.

In addition, off-campus students can increase the maximum capacity of their gatherings from 12 to 15 individuals.

“Being off-campus, it is hard to get that sense of community like on campus, so I am happy that the number of people at gatherings has increased,” said junior Britney Jahrmarkt.

According to WTNH.com, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced on April 19 that some COVID-19 related restrictions for businesses will further be eased.

Starting May 1, restaurant curfews will be moved from 11 p.m. to midnight, outdoor restrictions will be lifted, alcohol can be served without food and there will be no table size limit.

“It’s nice to see that SHU is lifting some restrictions as more COVID related restrictions are being lifted in Connecticut,” said freshman Dylan Chizmadia.

Many students are also happy to hear that the state as a whole is easing some COVID-19 restrictions.

“I was especially happy to hear the curfew was being pushed back for restaurants, it gives me hope that we are working toward our new normal,” said Jahrmarkt.

The email from the Coronavirus Planning Team included that if the number of cases

continues to stay low, the university will consider further lifting restrictions.

“Lifting these restrictions is a step in the right direction for this university. How students react to the lifted restrictions will allow the university to see the effects that fewer restrictions may bring in the following academic year, and through this change, the university will be able to mitigate any issues or questions that may arise in the wake of lifted restrictions,” said Maher.

Some students say they hope that more restrictions get lifted as the semester comes to a close.

“I hope if all goes well that the number of guests allowed per room increases and that we don’t have to wear masks outdoors,” said freshman Olivia Ford.

On the other hand, some students say they are worried that the lifting of the university’s restrictions will lead to an increase in COVID-19 cases on campus.

“I am a little worried that the restrictions being lifted could lead to an increase in cases due to more exposure to more people,” said sophomore Amanda Celentano.

However, other students are not worried that these restrictions could affect the low number of cases the university has been having.

“I’m not worried about an increase in cases since we are vaccinating on campus at good rates and so far, I see all of my residents following the Pioneer Promise. I think this is a great step since we are expected to be back to somewhat normal in the fall,” said sophomore Anthony Alliegro, Resident Success Assistant for Roncalli Hall.



FRANCESCA COMPAGNO / SHU SPECTRUM
SHU STUDENTS REACT TO HAVING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS LIFTED A LITTLE AROUND CAMPUS AS CASES GO DOWN.

Registering for Fall 2021

BY ANASTASIA COLAGRECO
Staff Writer

When freshman Anna Sorenson clicked the button to register for her fall 2021 courses, she anxiously waited to see if she got all the classes she wanted. After waiting a few minutes, she refreshed the page and was happy to see that she got into the ones she had hoped for.

“I was pleasantly surprised,” said Sorenson. “I ended up getting all my classes and had no real issues.”

During the week of April 12, students used Student Planning and Advising (SPA) to register for courses they will take during the fall 2021 semester. Registration dates are determined by class standing and priority groups such as Honors students and athletes.

“This was the first time in my whole college career that I didn’t have to worry too much about my classes filling up since I got priority,” said junior Colleen Shaffer.

For others, registering seemed to work out in their favor as well.

“I had a strangely easy time with registration this semester,” said sophomore Sydney Hamilton. “This was the first time I got all the classes I wanted since they fill up really fast. I was so relieved.”

While the process can seem very daunting to some, the Registrar’s Office and Student Success Center provide resources for students every semester, from guided training sessions on how to navigate SPA to major check sheets that ensure each student stays on the right track by taking their designated courses. Additionally, students must meet with their advisors, who approve of their planned schedules prior to registration.

“I always keep track of what I’m taking with the major check sheet,” said Shaffer. “It makes things way more organized and easier to keep track of.”

While class registration is never certain, many students say they found this semester’s to be easier than past years.

Junior Juliana Scotti says it was easy to get her classes because she registered with seniors.

“It went surprisingly well,” said Scotti. “It’s definitely easier to get classes as you get older.”

Similar to Scotti, junior Olivia Cifali had senior registration status. She says she found registration for her fall 2021 semester to be easier than previous years.

“It went really well,” said Cifali. “I got everything I wanted, so I’m happy. It’s definitely less stressful to be registering for your senior year.”

If students find themselves in a more competitive situation of registering, Hamilton says she recommends having back-ups to certain classes in case you do not get a seat. She says this has helped her a lot over the past few years.

“If you know what classes you want as a back-up, you can switch if you need to,” said Hamilton. “That’s what I did this time and it worked out well.”

Connection and internet problems are often a big worry for some students during this time.

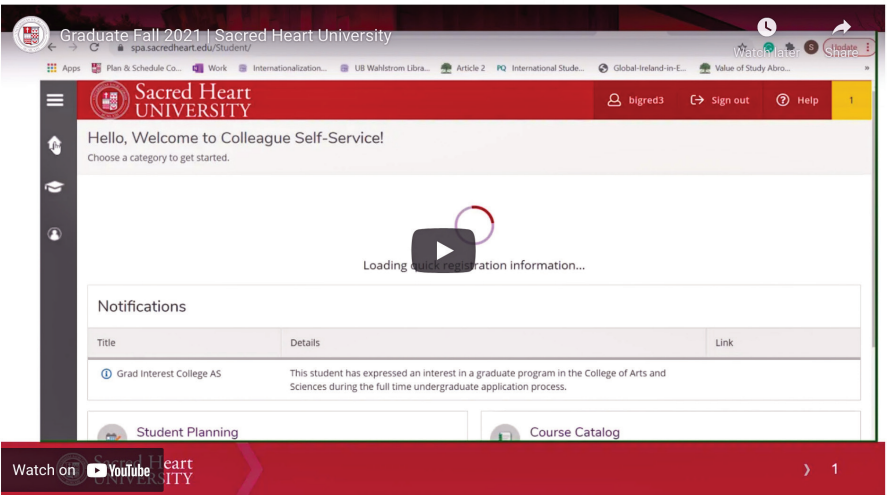
“The first time we used the new system years ago, it crashed, and I almost didn’t get any of my desired classes,” said Cifali.

For Sorenson, some connectivity issues occurred, but they did not affect the classes she got into.

“The website froze for about two minutes,” said Sorenson. “Luckily, I still got every course I needed.”

With the resources available online and mandatory advisor meetings, many students say they felt prepared for the task of registration.

“I really wasn’t that worried,” said Cifali. “So I’m not surprised that things went well for me this year.”



MADISON PELUSO / SHU SPECTRUM
FALL 2021 CLASS REGISTRATION TOOK PLACE A COUPLE WEEKS AGO AND STUDENTS HAD A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES.

Features

Not in Kansas Anymore Colloquium

BY JULIA PORTOGHESE
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, April 21, the Human Journey Colloquia Series featured Robert and Maureen Paulson to speak on Robert’s memoir, “Not in Kansas Anymore.”

The memoir documents his life journey and determination through Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

“ALS is a neurological disease that controls the body’s nervous system, which in turn activates the muscles, both voluntary and involuntary,” said Robert Paulson.

The colloquium began with Associate Professor of English Cara Kilgallen introducing the guests and acknowledging Robert’s New York Daily News publication and memoir.

The book is structured around his journey from Kansas to New York, which led to him becoming a patent lawyer.

In attendance at the colloquium included Sacred Heart University’s President John Petillo, students, faculty and the Paulson’s friends and family.

During the colloquium, Robert shared his article in the Daily News.

“Unlike the COVID-19 virus, which gives warning signals, rise in temperature, chest tightness, coughing, ALS gives no signal of impending death,” he said. “There is, however, a silver lining for those afflicted with ALS: it has no effect on the brain or vision. And that brings the ALS patient full circle back to the world with the aid of an eye-responsive computer.”

Due to ALS, he has lost his ability to verbally communicate, but technology has given him a way to communicate. “With the computer, there is no limit on what I can do with my eyes and my brain. And that is true for everyone with ALS,” said Robert.

Similar to the COVID-19 feeling of being isolated, ALS patients are socially isolated every day.

“For the ALS sufferers, that loss is replaced by a computer screen. For the socially isolated due to the viral pandemic, it is eerily similar, as they too must communicate on disembodied computer screens,” said Robert.

The colloquium informed the listeners on how COVID-19 gave society a chance to learn how to connect with Robert and other ALS patients.

“Robert related the isolation and loneliness ALS brings to the current pandemic, which helped put into perspective what many with ALS suffer,” said senior Morgan Buzga.

“ALS has limited Robert physically but not mentally. With a computer system, Robert was able to communicate to us by using his eyes, showing how the power of technology is life changing for people with disabilities.”

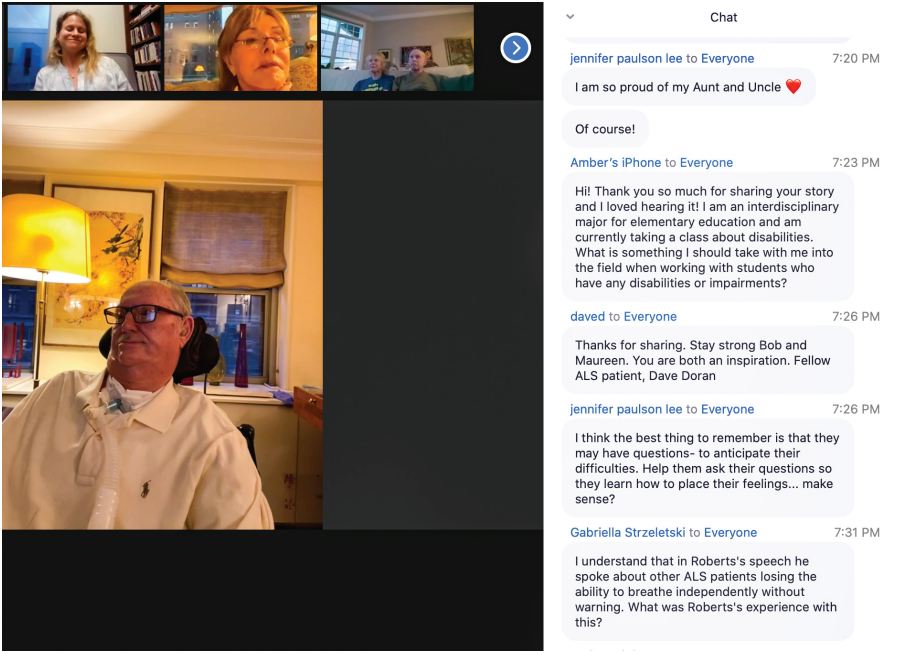
Maureen Paulson, Robert’s wife, expressed the lessons she has learned living with Robert. She spoke about how she gets through her day-to-day and also stays inspired.

“I’ve learned to leave the past behind and keep moving forward. It sounds hard to do, but we have done it and worked very hard at it. I’ve learned that love is enduring.

Bob’s kindness, generosity, honesty and integrity are so stunning that I am humbled,” said Maureen.

Some say Robert and Maureen’s life journey left the audience with a new perspective on everyday life.

“I felt honored, as a professor of English and writing, to share the Paulsons and their story with our SHU community. If anyone embodies courage and living a life of meaning and purpose, Robert and Maureen sure do,” said Kilgallen. “In spite of ALS, which confines Bob physically and Maureen emotionally, the two use their voices to inspire and empower others within the world, whether through their disability activism, social justice work, legal expertise or the simple sharing of their most profound story.”



ROBERT AND MAUREEN PAULSON TALK ABOUT ROBERT'S MEMOIR, “NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE,” DISCUSSING HIS LIFE WHILE BATTLING ALS.

THOMAS KOUREBANAS / SHU SPECTRUM

Best Buddies Friendship Walk

BY CAROLYN BEDDOW
Staff Writer

Best Buddies is a non-profit, international organization that supports the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, also known as IDD.

The Sacred Heart University Best Buddies chapter works with the organization by pairing Sacred Heart members with those with IDD so that they can form friendships and gain connections.

The chapter has been meeting virtually all semester but had the opportunity to see each other in person for a traditional Best Buddies fundraiser – the Annual Best Buddies Friendship Walk.

On the weekend of April 24, students met at Staples High School in Westport, Conn., along with other Best Buddy Chapters throughout Connecticut, to participate in the two experiences offered: the “Art Experience” and the “Sole Experience.”

The interactive walk is open to teams and allows for some to create their own walk if they choose. The “Art Experience” walk took place at Staples High School. However, the “Sole Experience” allowed supporters to do the walk from the comfort of their own neighborhood.

The Best Buddies Friendship Walk website states, “Join 40,000 walkers across the country to support the Best Buddies programs in your schools, workplaces and communities.”

Best Buddies Connecticut has raised over \$30,000 as of April 25. The money is fundraised by teams from colleges like University of Hartford, Eastern Connecticut State University, and Quinnipiac University, who create teams of students within their chapter. Companies like Stanley Black and Decker and high school chapters like North Haven High School are also among some of the top teams.

The organized event at Staples High School included activities like an interactive art-themed route with interactive stops along the way, including caricature artists, face painting, musical performances and art supplies given out to all participants.

Amber Lieto is the Vice President of Sacred Heart’s Best Buddies chapter.

“This is a great opportunity for everyone to grow and reflect on the importance of friendship,” said Lieto. “I am forever thankful for the relationships I have made through this organization.”

The chapter holds bi-weekly meetings and monthly events both on and off campus.

“We try putting on events that are not only enjoyable for our associate members, but also inclusive for all of our buddies,” said Lieto.

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, they hope to go back to previous events, such as potlucks, scavenger hunts, painting and many more fun events.

Lieto said the one event that they missed this year was the “Buddy Reveal,” where buddies get to meet their peer buddies.

“This is a fun time to make new connections and find ways to connect to those you may have never talked to before,” said Lieto.

Best Buddies advocates for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities by giving a platform for voices to be heard.

The Best Buddies website reads, “You’ll be making the world more welcoming to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – one friendship, one job, and one life-changing connection at a time.”



THE BEST BUDDIES ORGANIZATION HOSTED A FRIENDSHIP WALK TO RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

BEST BUDDIES

Audrey’s Corner

Bee Kind

JILL AMARI
MANAGER OF AUDREY’S CORNER



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Did you know that Sacred Heart University’s very own Pollinator Garden opened on April 24? And did you know that one of its features includes rocks painted by Sacred Heart students as part of the Kindness Rocks Project?

The Pollinator Garden is located at West Campus and is easy to reach (a map is pictured with this article). In preparation for its official opening day, the Environmental Club, Biology Club, Biology Department and various volunteers spent many hours of hard work preparing the land, planting flowers, laying a woodchip path, picking up litter and painting bird houses, bee houses and rocks.

The clubs and organizations involved in creating the garden want to make it a welcoming space for students, faculty, staff and members of the greater community. Students and faculty will be able to use the area for research, volunteers will tend to the garden and the space will provide a beautiful space to relax, think and study in the embrace of nature.

One of the features of the garden is the Thinking Path, a winding woodchip path that takes you through the entire garden. In addition, there are two peaceful ponds in the area, as well as plenty of natural wildlife and plants to marvel at while you walk along.

Another feature are the rocks laid along the path, several of which have been painted by Sacred Heart students. Rock painting is a fun and cathartic activity, and you can paint rocks as part of the Kindness Rocks Project, which is dedicated to sharing positive messages, uplifting people and sharing inspiration and love.

While anyone can make a rock garden, the Kindness Rocks Project offers a place for people to connect and get inspired to create their own rock painting groups. The Pollinator Garden crew wanted to undertake a similar project and bring kindness to the place they have worked so hard to bring to life.

The garden is not only a home for bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife, but also for all of us at Sacred Heart and in the wider community. So, as you stroll along the Thinking Path and cherish the beauty of nature, take a moment to find a rock and embrace its message of love and kindness.

You can learn more about the Kindness Rocks Project here: <https://www.thekindnessrocksproject.com/>. For more information about the Pollinator Garden, feel free to reach out to Jill Amari at amarij@mail.sacredheart.edu or contact the Environmental or Biology Clubs.



Jill Amari
Pollinator Garden



Map to the Pollinator Garden

Fashion

The New Roaring Twenties

BY ELIZABETH COYNE
Assistant A&E Editor

Could history be repeating itself once again? Welcome to the new roaring twenties.

The “roaring twenties” often refers to the 1920’s, the decade following WWI and the influenza pandemic, during which the surging economy caused a wave of mass consumerism.

According to an article from History, those living during this decade used their new money to purchase consumer goods such as ready-to-wear clothing and home appliances.

“I know that fashion in the 1920’s was more androgenous for women. Women were wearing more loose-fitting articles of clothing and shorter hemlines,” said Prof. Kelly Marino from the history department.

According to Bloomberg Businessweek, “Consumerism and mass culture took shape. It was the decade of art deco and jazz, Coco Chanel and Walt Disney, The Great Gatsby and the Harlem Renaissance.”

Many journalists and historians have predicted the current decade as one that will be comparable to the roaring twenties, due to the increased distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and the reopening of businesses across the country.

According to an article from The New Yorker, “Following a year of isolation, revellers will flock to crowded underground dress-easies, where they can take in an intoxicating array of athleisure and feel the illicit sensation of strangers safely breathing on them.”

“I love the idea of the roaring twenties returning in the 2020’s. I think it is a very refreshing concept and is well needed, especially after the pandemic,” said Fashion Club Treasurer, sophomore Adrianna Byczko. “After the Spanish flu in the 1920’s, the world saw a renaissance in fashion and in life in general, and if history repeats itself, I am very excited for it.”

Many fashion designers have taken this opportunity of cultural revival to release new and unique collections both in-store and on the previously barren runways.

Most recently, luxury fashion brands Gucci and Balenciaga have collaborated on a new collection, “Gucci Aria.” This collection showcased a handful of both brands’ classic signatures and silhouettes from past collections into one cohesive show. Many have praised the collection highly, calling the designers “mad scientists” and claiming they “hacked” the system of fashion design.

According to an article from GQ, the designers shocked the fashion industry, and “we’re going to be talking about this Gucci x Balenciaga collection for years.”

“We can already see how the roaring twenties are returning with more daring styles in fashion, and bright colors,” said Byczko. “I think the years after the pandemic will be very critical for the fashion industry, and we should all be excited to see these changes.”

As well as new collections, the current rise of consumerism has repopularized the

theory of heeled shoe height having a direct correlation to the state of the economy. With designers sending their models down the runway in higher heels than seen previously and platforms making a comeback, there is a lot of evidence to back up this recurring phenomenon.

In a YouTube video, fashion critique ModernGurlz said, “After a period of hardship, we tend to go the other direction and dress luxuriously, and what better way to do that by wearing absurdly high heels?”

“I think it’s so cool to draw comparisons between the two decades because we’ve seen that the world has come back from something like this before, so who’s to say it can’t happen again,” said sophomore Reagan Daly.



THE GUARDIAN
A POST PANDEMIC WORLD MAY MEAN THAT HISTORY BEGINS TO REPEAT ITSELF WITH THE NEW ROARING TWENTIES OF THE FASHION WORLD.

Arts & Entertainment

“High School Musical: The Musical: The Series”

BY CHLOE CURTIS
Staff Writer

Season two of “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,” is making its way to Disney+, a paid streaming service, on May 14. The series, which made its debut in Nov. 2019, is picking up the storyline of East High’s theater group and their new production of “Beauty and The Beast,” alongside the challenges that occur while growing up.

The series, which stars actors Johsua Bassett and Olivia Rodrigo as the characters Ricky and Nini respectively, is based on Disney’s movie series “High School Musical.”

Between the years of 2006 to 2008, three original movies were brought to Disney Channel and Walt Disney Pictures with actors Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens, taking the audience through the struggles and important decisions that come with following your dreams.

“There’s something loveable, something relatable that everybody can feel. It’s also just really nostalgic, especially right now with all this uncertainty,” said Dr. Bindig Yousman, department chair in the School of Communication, Media and the Arts.

In the season two trailer, East High’s theater group finds themselves up against rival North High. While the stars of season one remain, actor Derek Hough will play the new role of North High’s drama teacher, Zack Roy. However, the rivalry between East and North High is nothing new and can be seen in the original movies.

“I have watched all three High School Musical movies prior to watching the Disney+ series. Although I enjoy the series, I prefer the movies,” said sophomore Alyson Garafolo. “I don’t think they should be compared because although they have a similar story, they’re not the same at all.”

In the original movie, Troy Bolton finds himself at a crossroads between his collegiate basketball dreams and a role in the school play. Years later, Bassett’s character, Ricky, copes with his parent’s divorce while preparing for East High’s production of “High School Musical.”

“I think that the new series is tapping back into the demographic that watched the original movies a little bit and trying to get them to buy Disney+, it’s comfort food, but it’s also something a little bit different,” said Bindig Yousman.

While the plot of the Disney+ series verges away from the original, many of the songs on the soundtrack can be found in both. This includes the classic “We’re All in This Together,” “Start of Something New,” and “Stick to The Status Quo.”

“I think that the soundtrack gives the series a larger following,” said Garafolo. “If people see that a sound they really like is from the show, they might be more drawn to the series.”

While a new soundtrack is expected to be released along with the upcoming season, it may not include all the same songs as the second installment of the original movie series.

Sydney Bucksbaum of Entertainment Weekly, reported in an interview with series creator Tim Federle saying, “Fans will have to wait and see what the balance will be of new versions of classic ‘HSM’ songs, ‘Beauty and Beast’ songs, and new original songs.”

However, music is of no shortage in the world of “High School Musical.” In 2021, both

Rodrigo and Bassett have released pieces of their own. This includes Rodrigo’s hit single, “Driver’s License,” the prelude to her album “SOUR,” which is planned for release on May 21. Bassett’s self-titled album was released in March.

“If anything, these songs will only draw more people to the show,” said Bindig Yousman. “Disney is really good about pushing their stars on multiple platforms, to be a pop star as well as an actor.”



ELITE DAILY / DISNEY PLUS

THE FIRST SEASON OF “HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL:THE MUSICAL: THE SERIES” WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND SEASON TWO WILL BE RELEASED ON DISNEY+ ON MAY 14.

Tom Holland Films

BY JAMES GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

At only 24 years old, actor Tom Holland has accomplished a lot in his career to date. Holland is best known for his role as Peter Parker in the Marvel film “Spider-Man: Homecoming” which released in 2017 and was a huge box office success generating 880.2 million dollars, passing the original Spider-Man that was released in 2002.

According to the Associated Press, “The next few years will be quite busy for the young actor, as he’s slated to star in several big-screen projects.”

Two recent films that Holland fans are raving about are “Chaos Walking,” which was released on March 5, and “Cherry,” released on March 12.

According to the Associated Press, in “Chaos Walking,” Holland plays “Todd Hewitt - a boy from a distant planet of New World who was brought up to believe that a pathogen has killed all women. Able to hear people’s and animal’s minds, he meets a mysterious lady named Viola Eade who becomes his source of silence.”

Additionally, according to the Associated Press, “Holland goes for a darker film in ‘Cherry,’ which is based on Nico Walker’s novel of the same name about an army medic who suffers from PTSD. The actor plays the title character based on the book’s author, whose opioid addiction motivates him to start robbing banks in order to sustain his vice.”

“I thought ‘Cherry’ was a great movie. It used many different plots and settings to show the true character he was playing. I thought the movie was about a young relationship with a man who had struggles. Then he was in the army which is something I did not expect. Some could say it was all over the place, but I really enjoyed it,” said Film Club President, senior Dillion Benison. “However, for ‘Chaos Walking,’ I loved the concept of the movie as it was based on a book, but I thought they didn’t do a good job portraying it. I found it irritating even though I liked the idea.”

Two films to come out soon with Tom Holland are “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which is set to release on Dec. 17, and “Uncharted,” which is set to release on Feb. 11, 2022.

“I am looking forward to seeing ‘Spider-Man: No Way Home,’” said senior Erin Rondi. “I am excited to see how his storyline progresses in the Marvel movies.”

“I am excited for the movie ‘Uncharted’ because it is based off a classic video game about treasure hunting,” said Benison. “I expect Tom Holland will do really well in that role.”

With the several upcoming films starring Tom Holland this year, fans are thrilled to see him in so many different roles, with many showing their excitement on social media.

According to the Associated Press, “The films vary in genre, allowing him to flex his acting muscles, which also gives his fans more of an opportunity to see different sides of him every time he returns with a new project.”

“It used to never happen. Especially with powerful stars whose agents could affect

release dates. They wouldn’t want to cannibalize their audience between two movies. This happening now is probably at least partially due to the COVID-19 delays,” said Artistic Director, Prof. Todd Barnes. “But it may happen more in the future because of the sheer volume of projects actors tend to do now. I’m sure the producers aren’t happy making Tom Holland’s fans decide which new movie they want to see.”



GQ

THE SPIDERMAN FILMS WERE JUST THE BEGINNING OF TOM HOLLAND’S CAREER, WITH MANY PROJECTS IN THE WORKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEARS.

Sports

Women’s Golf Finishes Second at NEC Championship

BY ROBBIE FINIZIO
Staff Writer

Although the spring season has been far from a par for the course, the Sacred Heart women’s golf team finished off their 2021 campaign with a second-place result in the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship from April 16 to April 18, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

Five Pioneers represented Sacred Heart out in Fayetteville, Pa. where they shot a 947-total score. Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) scored a 907 total score to take first place while Merrimack University finished eleven strokes behind Sacred Heart to finish third, according to northeastconference.org.

“I think all in all we did a great job preparing,” said Coach Matt McGreevy. “We did fall a little short, but I was just happy that they got to be able to see what the conference championship was all about.”

In his sixteenth season as head coach, McGreevy brought a roster of nearly all underclassmen to the NEC Championship, with four out of the five golfers being sophomores or younger.

Among the Pioneers was freshman Margot Rouquette, who finished third overall at the NEC Championships with an 11 over par, according to shubigred.com.

“As a team it was obviously disappointing, because I think we were expecting better results for ourselves,” said Rouquette. “Personally, I tried to stay positive that third place as a freshman is something to be happy about.”

This season Rouquette earned the title of “NEC Golfer of the Week” three times and took first place at the FDU Invitational all while coming off a major shoulder surgery in Dec. 2020, according to Sacred Heart Athletics.

Rouquette was not alone as sophomore Chelsea Thakkar and sophomore Kailee Welch both placed in the top 10 for the NEC Championship.

“It was definitely more competitive for the championship,” said Welch. “It was a little nerve-wracking at the beginning, but I think we all got used to it by the second day.”

Welch started the weekend with a 6 over par in the first round but finished strong with two back-to-back 76’s to place her seventh overall in her first NEC Championship appearance.

“I feel like I had more confidence. I took each hole one at a time, and each shot one at a time,” said Welch. “I was very happy with how I played.”

Going into the fall of 2021, Sacred Heart will return nine out of 10 players from the roster while also expecting to bring in new recruits from the class of 2025.

“Talent is talent, and these girls have it. I think this core three right here (Rouquette, Welch and Thakkar), with their closeness and their ability to push each other is going to be able to do some really great things in the future,” said McGreevy.

Although the schedule is unclear for next season, the Pioneers will be spending the summer working on their game with a goal of being conference champions in the spring of 2021.

“I’m feeling very confident about the team next year because we have a really good

team coming along,” said Thakkar. “I feel like having Margot and Kailee on the team this year really helped me and pushed me to work harder than I should.”



SACRED HEART ATHLETICS
THE SACRED HEART WOMEN’S GOLF TEAM PLACED SECOND AT THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP IN FAYETTEVILLE, PA.

Men’s Tennis Upsets Bryant at NEC Championship

BY TOMMY KOUREBANAS
Staff Writer

The men’s tennis team defeated the defending champs, Bryant Bulldogs, at the Northeast Conference (NEC) championships on April 16th. The tournament was held at Mercer Tennis Center in West Windsor, N.J. from April 16-18.

The Pioneers knocked off Bryant in the quarterfinals by a score of 4-0. The Bulldogs came into the championships with a record-setting six-straight NEC titles.

“It was probably one of the greatest feelings we’ve had in a while,” said junior Ayman Khan. “We were really hungry to go out there and prove that we have the potential to beat them.”

The third-ranked duo going into the conference championships, junior Tyler Lowe and freshman Lefteri Apostolou tallied the first victory for the Pioneers with a 7-5 decision.

“We put in a lot of work at doubles this semester,” said Lowe. “[This] was another great moment to prove the work we had put in.”

Apostolou felt he benefited from having Lowe as his partner this season.

“[Tyler] has a lot more experience in college tennis,” said Apostolou. “We were able to create a connection on and off the court.”

In singles, there are six points available in a best of three sets format. For doubles (which is played first at tournaments), one set is played for the best of six points and you must win at least two out of three to score the doubles point.

“If you split sets and the match is undecided, you play a full third set to decide if you tied one-set all,” said Khan. “If the match is undecided, it’s a 10-point tiebreaker to decide the third set.”

Following Apostolou and Lowes’ doubles match, Apostolou, Khan, and junior captain William Wibmer scored the final three points during singles play. Wibmer and Apostolou led the team by winning both their matchups.

“Going into singles with a doubles point gives you a lot of confidence and it doesn’t put you in as much pressure,” said Wibmer. “For singles, I’d describe it as the best match I played so far, I felt flawless.”

Saint Francis Brooklyn defeated the Pioneers 4-0 in the semifinals. The Terriers secured the victory before Wibmer, Apostolou and senior Lucca Casaldue Pla could finish their respective singles matchups.

“They knew they were going to clinch so [my opponent] was walking around the court stalling,” said Wibmer. “You just have to take the positive stuff, I performed really well during the tournament and I think it’s a great way to finish the season.”

The men’s team finished with a 3-7 overall record and 1-3 for conference play. Five matches were canceled this spring due to the pandemic, which disrupted the team for two weeks.

“We were trying to remind them that COVID can come in and just shut everything down at any minute,” said four-year head coach William Boe-Wiegaard. “We were trying

to appreciate every day and treat it like it could be our last day to play.” Boe-Wiegaard coaches both the men’s and women’s teams at Sacred Heart.

“I feel like I’m doing two years’ worth of work each year,” said Boe-Wiegaard. “I’ve learned and grown more than I would have had if I only had one program to be keeping an eye on.”

Lowe and Wibmer will be captains for the men’s team next season. They hope to advance further at the next NEC Championship.

“I’m going to make sure everyone is giving their 100%,” said Wibmer. “As a team, we really want to win a championship and we’ll do everything we can to make that happen.”



SACRED HEART ATHLETICS
THE MEN’S TENNIS TEAM DEFEATS THE DEFENDING NEC CHAMPIONS OF BRYANT UNIVERSITY AT THE NEC CHAMPIONSHIP ON APRIL 16.

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It’s Time to Step Out of Your Comfort Zone

MIKENZIE CARBONE
SPORTS EDITOR

Have you ever thought of stepping out of your comfort zone to suggest something that could be rejected? In that case, have you held back from sharing your ideas because you are afraid of rejection?

Well, after my senior year, I learned to no longer be afraid of the unknown or rejection.

At the beginning of senior year, I was contemplating what to do for my senior capstone project. I had been interning for the Cape Cod Baseball League for five months at this time and thought I would do a collaboration with my internship and my senior project.

The Cape Cod Baseball League is a collegiate summer baseball league that is located on Cape Cod, Mass. The organization is a non-profit and a prestigious 10-team league, and the teams are made up of recruited college athletes from all over the country.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the organization was unable to have summer baseball during 2020. I brainstormed the idea to the supervisors of my internship of starting a podcast for the league to keep content rolling throughout the offseason.

Twenty-three episodes later, I enjoy every minute of what I do. The Cape League and Its Communities podcast was created, established and run by solely myself. The podcast is run on a weekly basis, but sometimes every other week.

The journey of creating your own idea and presenting it to the

world is not easy, but extremely worth the time and effort.

The podcast focuses on a light-hearted conversation about baseball and those involved in the league. I have spoken with previous athletes, some making it to the minor and major leagues after or during their college careers, as well as to coaches, scouts and members of the organization.

I have enjoyed hearing everyone’s story, but more importantly, I have appreciated being able to share their story. I find value and purpose in interviewing others and getting to present their journey with the world.

With senior year coming to an end in four short weeks, I have looked back on my college career and appreciate Sacred Heart for helping me discover and enjoy what I do every day.

I’m excited to continue my journey within the sports industry and to see what it has to offer. More importantly, I look forward to the individuals I will meet in the future and the stories I will learn from them.

I live by the motto that everyone has their own story to tell, and I will be the one to tell those stories. No matter how big or small, every story matters.

“My Life Is a Sitcom”

JACKIE O’ROURKE
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Whenever something funny or awkward happens to me, I often say “my life is a sitcom.” Some of the events I have gotten myself into closely resemble an episode of a sitcom, or “situation comedy.” I can hear the laugh track in the back of my head at times.

However, I’ve realized that is not a bad thing. I LOVE a good sitcom. From “Friends” to “Schitt’s Creek,” I love them all. I honestly can see myself in a lot of the sitcoms we know and love.

“Friends” is my favorite show of all time. Actually, during the winter break of my junior year, I worked at the “Friends Pop Up” in Boston after attending the one that first launched in New York that fall. I got to work in the “Friends” universe for a month. It was a dream come true.

I can see myself in all of the “Friends.” In my friend group, I often am the planner and hostess like Monica. Like Rachel, I definitely am a girly girl who believes in herself. Like Ross, I can overexaggerate and be a little extra sometimes. Like Chandler, I can “make jokes when I’m uncomfortable.” I like to think that I am true to myself like Phoebe. Even though I can be silly and immature at times, I also like to think I have a big heart. All of those qualities are those of Joey.

Moving into the modern-day “Friends,” I see myself a lot in “New Girl” as well. I can’t even tell you how much I relate to Jessica Day. From her polka dots and preppiness to her awkward encounters and goofy voices, I am her and she is me. Nick Miller is another spirit animal of mine, and I too “like getting older, I feel like I’m finally aging into my personality.” I can’t say I relate too much to Winston, Schmit, or CeCe, but I do have friends and other people in my life that remind me of them.

I wish I could say I was as iconic and show stopping as Moira or David Rose. Personally, I see a lot of myself in Alexis Rose. I don’t need to be the main character or center of attention all the time. I am a very independent person and know that “I walk through life, in really nice shoes.”

We can’t forget about the workplace. I once was told by a coworker that I reminded him of Leslie Knope. That made my whole week. Although I am not as passionate about Public Parks or Government, like Former Councilwoman Knope (sorry if that was a spoiler to anyone), I do believe in girl power, hard work and the value of friendship. As Leslie says herself, “We need to remember what’s important in life: friends, waffles, work. Or waffles, friends, work. Doesn’t matter, but work is third.” In regard to other members of the Pawnee Parks Department, I try to remind myself to be as positive as Chris Traeger, as ambitious as Tom Haverford and as loyal as Ron Swanson.

I’ve taken on a few leadership roles this year. Along with being A&E Editor here at The Spectrum, I also am the president of SHU’s chapter of Her Campus, the Social Media Manager for Sacred Heart’s TV News Program, “The Pulse,” and am the Editor for Interviews and Internet Culture at Mud Magazine. In the words of Dunder Mifflin Scranton’s Regional Manager, Michael Scott, “The only time I set the bar low is for limbo.” While I may be like Jim Halpert and not take myself too seriously and definitely not as serious as Dwight K. Schrute, I know I have things to be proud of and need to remind myself of that more often.

And as I am nearing graduation (EEK), I find myself more of an Andy Bernard, thinking, “I wish there was a way to know you’re in the good old days before you’ve actually left them.”

If you’re like me and consider your life a sitcom, know that it’s not a bad thing. It’s good to be able to laugh at yourself and your mishaps. While we may not be the “Meredith Grey” or “Jon Snow” in people’s lives, we are their comfort and amusement. We’ll be there for them whether it’s the first time or the 100th rerun. If you consider yourself to be a Jessica Day, Chandler Bing, Leslie Knope or Michael Scott, you are Beyonce always.



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